

Francis After Aid of 'Reds,' Says Robins

U. S. Approval of Lenin Regime Advised if They Would Fight Germany

Records Are Offered

Red Cross Leader Denies Charge That He Sympathized With Bolsheviks

New York Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, March 10.—A mass of confidential documents showing the negotiations between Ambassador David R. Francis and the Soviet government through Colonel Raymond Robins, head of the Red Cross in Russia, were put into the record of the Overman investigation committee this afternoon by Mr. Robins. They show that Mr. Francis was willing to recommend formal recognition of the Soviet government if it could be brought to active warfare against Germany.

Mr. Robins appeared at his own request, with the belief that he was going to attack the testimony of the ambassador, but as his statement proceeded it was found that he was carrying a story of that testimony carried by one of the press associations on Saturday night, and widely published. The committee decided the publication of this story justified his reply to it, but the members all declared at the close that they saw no disagreement of moment between the testimony of the two men.

The documents submitted by Mr. Robins were all copies of originals in his possession, and many of them were in Mr. Francis's own hand. The first statement which Mr. Robins took up was the allegation that he had aided the Soviet leaders what their principles were and had sympathized with them from that time on.

Sympathy With 'Reds' Denied
"That is an absolutely false statement," he said. "While I was in Russia, and since my return, I have at all times been absolutely opposed to the principles of Bolshevism. Those principles are not only repulsive to any student of radical thought, and I have always disapproved them. There was no need for me to make any inquiry about them."

The first document Mr. Robins produced was a copy of a memorandum he had prepared of verbal instructions under which he, for some days, had been negotiating with the Bolshevik leaders at Mr. Francis's request. It was a memorandum which he was authorized to communicate to these men and was drawn up to prevent misunderstanding. It read:

"Suggested Communication to the Commissar for Foreign Affairs

"At the hour the Russian people shall require assistance from the United States to repel the actions of Germany and her allies you may be assured that I will recommend to the American government that it render them all aid and assistance within its power. If upon the termination of the present armistice Russia fails to conduct democratic peace through the fault of the Central Powers, and is compelled to continue the war, I shall urge upon your government the fullest assistance to Russia possible, including the shipment of supplies and munitions for the Russian armies, the extension of credits and the giving of such advice and technical assistance as may be welcome to the Russian people in the service of the common purpose to obtain through the defeat of the German autocracy the effective guarantee of a lasting and democratic peace."

Terms of Recognition Stated
"I am not authorized to speak for my government on the question of recognition, but that is a question which will of necessity be decided by actual future events. I may add, however, that if the Russian armies, now under the command of the people's commissars, conduct hostilities against the forces of Germany and her allies I will recommend to my government the formal recognition of the de facto government of the people's commissars."

"Note in lead pencil at bottom: 'Ok. D. R. E. subject to change by department,' which Colonel Robins will be promptly informed. 12-18"

"In the margin, 'To Col. Robins.'"
The second document, of the same date, carries on the margin a note in pencil, "To Colonel Robins: This is a substance of cable I shall send to department on being advised by you that peace negotiations terminated and Soviet government decided to prosecute war against Germany and Austria-Germany. D. R. E." It reads: "From sources which I regard as reliable I have received information to the effect that Bolshevik leaders fear complete failure of peace negotiations because of probable demands by Germany of impossible terms."

"Desire for peace is so fundamental and widespread that it is impossible to fortify the results of the abrupt termination of these negotiations, with only alternative of disgraceful peace or continuance of war."

Bolshevik Eager for Support
"Bolshevik leaders will welcome information as to what assistance may be expected from our government if continuance of war is decided upon. Assurances of American support in such event may decidedly influence their decision."

"Under these circumstances and notwithstanding previous cables, I have considered it my duty to instruct General Judson informally to communicate to the Bolshevik leaders the assurance that in case the present armistice is terminated and Russia continues the war against the Central Powers I will recommend to the American government that it render all aid and assistance possible. I have also told Robins, of the Red Cross, to continue his relations with Bolshevik government, which are necessary for the present."

"Present situation is so uncertain and liable to sudden change that immediate action upon my own responsibility is necessary, otherwise the opportunity for all action may be lost."

"Nothing that I shall do will in any event give formal recognition to the Bolshevik government until I have explicit instructions, but the necessity for informal intercourse in the present hour is so vital that I should be remiss if I failed to take the responsibility of action."

The third document was a copy of a message written by Lenin at Robins's request, and asking the Volodga Soviet to give every possible assistance and courtesy to the American Embassy when it arrived there from Petrograd. The fourth was a copy of a message from Mr. Francis to the State Department, which he had given Mr. Robins

on March 9, 1918, with authority to show it to the Soviet officials, in the effort that was being made to prevent ratification of the Brest-Litovsk treaty by the All-Russian Congress due to meet on March 12. It follows:

"Secretary of State, Washington: Colonel Robins arrived at midnight. He received from Petrograd after an important conference with Trotsky on the 5th. The result of that conference he wired to me in the code of the military mission, but as the mission had left for Petrograd, with the code, I did not learn of the conference until the arrival of Telegrams a few hours ago. Since R. left Petrograd, Moscow and Petrograd Soviets both have instructed their delegates to the conference of March 12 to support the ratification of the peace mission."

"I fear that such action is the result of a threatened Japanese invasion of Siberia, which I have anticipated by sending Wright eastward. Trotsky told Robins that he had heard that such invasion was contemplated by the Allies and especially by America, and it not only would force the government to advance the ratification of the humiliating peace, but would so completely estrange all factions in Russia that further resistance to Germany would be absolutely impossible."

"Trotsky furthermore asserted that neither his government nor the superiors in America of all shipments from Vladivostok to Russia, and a virtual control of the operations of the Siberian railway, but a Japanese invasion would result in non-resistance and eventually make Russia a German province. In my judgment a Japanese advance now would be exceedingly unwise, and this midnight cable is sent for the purpose of asking that our influence may be exerted to prevent same, please reply immediately. More tomorrow."

Anti-German Policy Predicted

Document number five is another cablegram, given to Mr. Robins under the same circumstances.

"March 9, 1918.
"To Seestate Washington: I have seen the Bolshevik and anti-Bolshevik press since receiving my cable of 12 o'clock last night. Both lay great stress upon the threatened Japanese invasion and all harmoniously express violent opposition to the same. I am just in receipt of confidential message from Ruggles, and he reports that in accordance with his instructions he has interviewed Trotsky, the chief of staff and the French military mission; he states that as yet it is too early to judge what the Bolshevik leaders can do, but thinks their intention is to fight the Germans even if peace is ratified at Moscow by the all-Russian Soviet; he personally urges avoidance of reprisals and occupations and states that there is time, therefore, if the situation becomes hopeless later on; that he will accompany the Russian, French and Italian staffs to Moscow on March 11."

"I cannot too strongly urge the folly of an invasion by the Japanese now. It is possible that the congress at Moscow may ratify the peace, but if the Japanese peril is baseless I am of the opinion that the congress will reject this humiliating peace. The Soviet government is the only power which is able to offer resistance to the German advance and consequently should be assisted if it is sincerely antagonistic to Germany. In any case the peace affiliation only gives Russia a breathing spell, as the terms thereof are fatal to Bolshevism as well to the integrity of Russia."

Robins Praised by Francis
Another document submitted was Mr. Francis's general letter of introduction and credentials to Mr. Robins, and there was one speaking appreciatively of the services which he rendered in keeping me advised concerning matters important for me to know and giving suggestions and advice, as well as being a channel of unofficial communication with the Soviet government."

Two more documents produced were a telegram to Mr. Robins from the Ambassador, showing how close were the relations between the two, and the letter from the Ambassador to the American Ambassador at Peking, introducing Mr. Robins. These are:

"VOLOGDA, May 5, 1918.

"My Dear Colonel:
"Your telegram of May 2 received this morning, but it says nothing about the unprecedented order of the Soviet government prohibiting the reception and transmission of cipher telegrams from any source other than the government."

"Do you think the Soviet government would oppose all Allied intervention? I can understand the difficulty of the position of Lenin and Trotsky and know they are compelled to profess when organizing an army that such is for the promotion of a world-wide social revolution. At the same time you, I know, have always felt that it was necessary to encourage such profession in order to organize any resistance whatever to the Central Powers and were confident that such an organization would be used against existing governments, including our own. But it is difficult to induce our government to accept that view."

"You are correct in thinking I was not at all disturbed by the newspaper surmise that I was to be succeeded by yourself, but I did not think such suggestion absurd, but I did not think that you were a party to any such move."

Letter to Peking Ambassador
"To the Honorable Paul S. Reinsch, American E. E. and M. P., Peking.
"My Dear Colleague:

"This letter will be presented by Lieutenant Colonel Raymond Robins, who has been in charge of the American Red Cross mission to Russia for some months past and who is now en route to America to inform our government of the conditions in which the Bolsheviks have been in Russia. The Colonel has been in close touch with the Soviet government since its organization in October last and has kindly kept me informed concerning its acts and policies so far as he was able to do so. While the Colonel and I have not agreed on the subject of recognition, we are of accord and have been from the beginning in thinking it important, if not necessary, that the Soviet government should show resistance to Germany, and have worked together to that end. I am confident that the Colonel will be able to render you favorable acquaintance and respect for him your courtesies and assistance."

The first of these, Mr. Robins pointed out, refutes the charges that he was planning to succeed Mr. Francis as ambassador, as has been charged by two or three witnesses. Mr. Robins added that he never had appeared in any matter other than as Red Cross representative, using his unofficial capacity quietly and, for the most part, secretly."

North Dakota Voters Asked

To Pass on Radical Laws

FARGO, N. D., March 10.—Plans for the referendum of numerous laws enacted by the state Legislature, which adjourned last week, were announced here today by the North Dakota Independent Voters' Association.

The bills include those creating the industrial commission, which is placed in charge of the many state owned industries contemplated by other legislative measures.

Daniels Stops Construction of 6 Big Cruisers

Question as to Whether War Has Made Them Obsolete Cause of the Suspension

Going Abroad for Ideas

Benson and Sims Demand Armor With Speed and Power in Capital Ships

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Possibility that the whole battle cruiser programme of the navy, involving an expenditure of nearly half a billion dollars, will be abandoned in favor of a new type of cruiser battleship was indicated today by an announcement that Secretary Daniels had ordered suspension of work on the six thirty-five-knot cruisers already authorized until a decision as to the future type of capital ship could be reached.

There is a wide difference of opinion among American naval officers as to whether the slow battleship and the fast cruiser should not give way in the future to a ship combining the power of the one and nearly the speed of the other, and because of this fact Congressional committees have deferred action on six additional cruisers until a full report on new types can be made by the department.

To Seek Ideas Abroad

It is to gather information for this report that Secretary Daniels and his three chief technical advisers will sail Saturday for Europe. They will be met overseas by Admiral Benson, chief of operations, and Vice-Admiral Sims, and upon their return a general conference will be held to decide what types of capital ships should be built.

This statement was authorized today by Secretary Daniels:

"The conclusion relating to the type of capital ships, resulting from a close study of naval activities of the present war, has created such a difference of opinion among naval experts that the Secretary of the Navy has directed the temporary suspension of the building of the large battle-cruisers."

Admiral Mayo, the commander in chief of the United States Atlantic fleet, who before the Committee on Naval Affairs of the House, stated that in his opinion the most effective capital ship today is a high-speed battleship which carries the great gun power and armor protection of a battleship and, as much as possible, the high speed of a battle-cruiser.

Benson and Sims Favor

Such naval experts as Admiral Benson and Admiral Sims, as a result of their observations and study abroad, concur in the opinion of Admiral Mayo. Many of the high ranking officers of the Navy Department, likewise concur in this opinion, while many of the experts of the General Board are of the opinion that the battle cruisers as planned should be proceeded with and battle-ships of slower speed, greater gun power and greater protection be likewise constructed.

"Because of the difference of opinion among naval experts, the large amount of money involved (between \$180,000,000 and \$200,000,000), and the great question of fighting efficiency being involved, the Secretary of the Navy has directed temporary suspension of the construction of the battle cruisers. Little of the work on the hull has been done. Some of the electrical machinery has been started, but it is not contemplated that the delay of two months or so will be such as to seriously interfere with the proper decision in the matter."

Technical Information Wanted

"It is because of the difference of opinion among experts and to study naval lessons taught by the war that the Secretary of the Navy is taking the chiefs of the technical bureaus of the Navy Department with him to Europe to study the question with naval experts and obtain such other technical information as is possible while abroad from studies of foreign plans and specifications."

In this controversy the Navy General Board, charged with deciding upon the military characteristics of new ships, disagrees with the opinion of the high officers who have had experience overseas in the present war.

British Ship Caused Dispute

The difference of opinion began last year when the British Admiralty decided to alter the plans for the battle-ship Hood to make her a composite battleship and battle-cruiser. In effect, the decision was to build a very high speed battleship, sacrificing gun power to some extent for speed, but retaining the defensive armor of a ship of the line. The Hood will carry eight fifteen-inch rifles, full battleship armor and have a speed of a little more than thirty knots an hour. Her displacement is in excess of 40,000 tons.

Examining the Hood design, some officers said that the gun power of this huge vessel was of little more than half the broadside weight of the new American dreadnaughts carrying twelve 16-inch guns. Some officers have estimated that to get such gun power in a ship that would approach a 30-knot speed, and at the same time carry full battleship protection, would require a 60,000-ton ship of about 900-foot length, the cost of which would be not less than \$10,000,000.

Would Need Whole New Fleet

One effect, it was said, of the adoption of the cruiser battleship programme would be to render obsolete all existing battleships. The speed of these new types of vessels would be useless in individual ships, officers said, and to construct an entire fleet

of them would present a stupendous cost.

Contracts for the battle-cruisers were awarded in March, 1917. As designed, the ships were to have had a tonnage of 34,000 and a speed of thirty-five knots. They would have been 550 feet long, 91 feet broad and would have carried ten 14-inch rifles, eight torpedo tubes, eighteen 5-inch rifles and many other smaller guns.

10 I. W. W.'s Are Held

WATERBURY, Conn., March 10.—All but ten of the 187 men learned in a meeting of Industrial Workers of the World yesterday, were released today. The ten men, held over until Thursday on a charge of breach of the peace, include Alexander Chertoff, of Chicago and New York, who, the police say, is a national organizer of the I. W. W.

An expense book kept by the men who are organizing lodges of the I. W. W. throughout Connecticut was obtained. One of the items of expense as entered reads, "Carfare and rum."

Government Reveals Plans For 'Red' Revolt

Continued from page 1

"Nga Variden," Swedish weekly, Chicago.

"Der Industrieller Arbeiter," Jewish weekly, Chicago.

"Probusa," Bulgarian weekly, Chicago.

"A Felebadulas," Hungarian weekly, Chicago.

"Loukkaistelu," Finnish monthly, 58 East 123d Street, New York.

"It is the announced intention of this organization to publish its literature in practically every foreign lan-

guage spoken in the United States, to change its monthly magazines into weeklies, their weeklies into dailies.

Even a Chinese I. W. W.

"In a recent issue of one of these publications there appears a notice to the effect that, beginning in March, a publication in the Chinese language will be published in New York in the interests of the Chinese I. W. W., recently organized."

"It will be seen from the foregoing that this organization will be able by this method to reach every foreign element in the United States and, by means of its propaganda, to weld them into one big 'revolutionary' unit."

"It also appears that the Socialists have joined the Bolshevik movement and are using the party organization to further the cause, and this will be seen from the various excerpts from Socialistic publications."

"The Anarchist class, already outside the pale of the law, are to be found among the staunchest supporters of Bolshevism and have eagerly

seized this opportunity to join forces with other radicals and overthrow the government."

Gives Bolshevik Programme

"The programme of the Bolshevik is strikingly set out in a recent issue of a Swedish newspaper published in the United States, the concluding paragraph of which reads as follows: 'The Bolsheviks are convinced that they must create a world revolution according to Russian example. Money is distributed in masses all over Europe to keep the kettles of discontent boiling. Inflammable means are used, however, is the enticement of colossal gains, against which the war time profiteering appears as small sums indeed.' Nordstjernan, New York City, January 2, 1919."

"The excerpts attached are merely typical of the matter of this kind found in the mails since the signing of the armistice, down to the present time, but do not include all of the matter found in the mails during the period."



Otherwise No Progress

In any Business or profession there is always room at the Top. It is partly due to the fact that people in sleepy possession there, are continually falling off.

Medicine—Cigarette Case



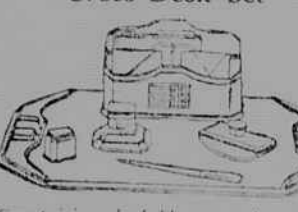
Case, at left, containing bandages, medicines, plasters, etc., 4 1/2 inches square, gilt clasp. Black or colored pin morocco leather... \$5.00
Motor cigarette case, shown open and closed, taking 30 cigarettes, a full day's supply; space for money and auto license. Tan pin goatskin, size 5 1/2 x 3 1/2 inches closed... \$6.50
Black or tan stripe leather... \$6.75
Tan English pebble... \$7.75
Initials stamped 25c extra.

Cross Shopping Bag



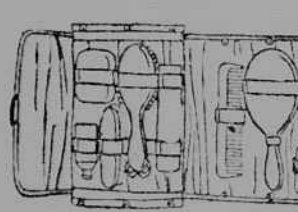
For women, 1 framed coin compartment, center, attached mirror, black genuine pin seal leather, silk lining, 9-inch covered frame, exposed gilt corners; 5 1/2 inches deep... \$17.50
Colored pin seal leather... \$19.50
Gold-plated black leather, ready for immediate delivery, each letter 50c

Cross Desk Set



Comprising desk blotter-pad, octagon design, 20 1/2 x 14 1/2 inches; stationery rack with perpetual calendar, hand blotter, pen brush, inkwell, and leather address and stamp books; of glazed calfskin leather, pastel shades, border of gold tooling, complete... \$35.00

Cross Toilet Case



For women, folding design, complete white celluloid toilet and manicure articles; morocco case, morocco lining, snap fastenings, gilt clasp, size 7 1/2 x 11 1/2 inches closed, complete... \$20.50
Initials stamped on case without charge.

Cross Overnight Bag



For men, "Windsor" design; tan English pigskin, leather lining throughout, capped corners, double handles, size 16 inch... \$41.00
Initials burned without charge.

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NEW style fancies in attractive afternoon and street costumes, cleverly tailored and developed in superior Serge, with distinctive effects in braid and embroidery.

Very Specially Priced,
18.50

DAINTILY styled Georgette frocks, delightful in rich simplicity and ultra modish in design, with striking notes in bead ornamentation. Tailored Frocks of Satin and Tricotine.

Very Specially Priced,
25.00

EXTRAVAGANT embroidery and beads in bright but harmonizing colors are a few of the more distinctive features of the new frocks of Georgette Crepe, Tricotette and Paulette.

Very Specially Priced,
35.00 to 58.50

NEW SUIT MODES

CLEVER tailored suits of Poirer Twill, Silvertone and superior Serge, accentuating the soft and becoming lines and distinguishing charm of the approved silhouette.

Very Specially Priced,
30.00

JAUNT Suits of Tricotine, Silvertone and Poirer Twill, interpreting the highest ideals in dress individuality with every novel effect defining the accepted mode.

Very Specially Priced,
40.00 to 58.50

DOLMANS, WRAPS & CAPES

DOLMAN Wrap Coats fashioned of Cashmere Velour, Silvertone, and Silver Tip Bolivia Cloth, emphasizing the simple youthful lines of the prevailing mode and meeting the most discriminating demands.

Very Specially Priced,
30.00 35.00 48.50

Mauvish suit of Tricotine, in the new straight line silhouette, \$50.00

"Keep a bond or keep a baby." 400,000 little orphans are starving in Bible lands.

How many will you save? Cleveland H. Dodge, treasurer Armenian and Syrian Relief Committee, 1 Madison Ave., N. Y.